

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 095

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 2255

FOR CONSTABLE NEA/PAB FROM MOORE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PK

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SENATOR SYED QAMARUZZAMAN SHAH

1. SENATOR SHAH PLANS TO BE IN LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, FOR MEDICAL CONSULTATION ABOUT THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE AND EXPECTS TO VISIT WASHING-

TON FOR A FEW DAYS THEREAFTER. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON HIS TRIP BY MALIK SIKANDER KHAN, MNA.

2. SENATOR SHAH CALLED ON ME TO TELL ME OF HIS PLANS AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS

OF THE DEPARTMENT. ALTHOUGH HE HAS NO SPECIFIC MATTERS TO RAISE SO FAR AS I KNOW, HE IS PROFESSIONALLY INTERESTED IN PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN RELATIONS AND HAS TRAVELLED A GOOD DEAL ABROAD ON VARIOUS MISSIONS FOR THE GOP. HE WILL LEAD A PAKISTANI CULTURAL DELEGATION TO TASHKENT ON HIS RETURN FROM THE USA.

3. SHAH IS A YOUNG, EBULLIENT, AND RICH LANDOWNER AND LAWYER FROM HYDERABAD. HE WAS AN EARLY PPP ADHERENT WHO WON INDIRECT ELECTION TO THE SENATE FOLLOWING DEFEAT AT THE POLLS IN 1970. HE EDITS "HILLAL-E-PAKISTAN," THE LEADING SINDHI PPP DAILY, OWNED BY BEGUM NUSRAT BHUTTO AND HER CHILDREN. SHAH DESCRIBES HIMSELF AS "A RIGHTIST" WITHIN THE PPP; HE FAVORS A LARGER ROLE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOR PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN PAKISTAN. NOW IN HIS EARLY FIFTIES, MALIK SIKANDER KHAN IS A LANDOWNER AND LEADER

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OF THE HAMLANI TRIBE OF DADU DISTRICT, SIND. HE WAS ELECTED TO THE

PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY IN 1953 AND 1956, KEPT AWAY FROM POLITICS DURING THE AYUBIAN ERA, JOINED THE PPP IN 1967. HE DEFEATED DISSIDENT LEADER G.M. SYED IN THE POLLING FOR MNA FROM DADU IN 1970. MALEK SIKANDER KHAN IS AN AVID HUNTER AND REPUTED CLOTHESHORSE.

4. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU OR SOME MEMBER OF NEA/PAB TO SEE SHAH AND KHAN IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, AND I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE THEM THE NAME OF THE PERSON TO GET IN TOUCH WITH WHEN THEY REACH WASHINGTON. SENATOR SHAH WILL BE SUPPLYING HIS DETAILED ITINERARY LATER AND WE WILL FORWARD IT TO YOU. I LEAVE IT TO YOUR JUDG-

MENT WHETHER, IN THE LIGHT OF CURRENT DEPARTMENT PRACTICE IN SUCH MATTERS, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND FEASIBLE TO REQUEST CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION COURTESIES AT THE PORT OF ENTRY, WHICH WILL BE LOS ANGELES.
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